SEPARATISM AND INTER ETHNIC CONFLICTS AS A NEW GEOPOLITICS

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Abstract: this article reveals the essence of separatism, the relationship between ethnicity and ethnic conflicts. The article describes the influence of separatism on the development of both the political process and the international situation. Based on the historical phenomena of separatism, its potential consequences in the context of ethnopolitical conflict were formulated using the modeling method.

Keywords: ethno political conflict; separatism; secession; nationalism; ethnic minorities.

СЕПАРАТИЗМ И МЕЖЭТНИЧЕСКИЕ КОНФЛИКТЫ КАК НОВАЯ ГЕОПОЛИТИКА

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Аннотация: в данной статье раскрывается сущность сепаратизма, взаимосвязь между этнической принадлежностью и этническими конфликтами. Описано влияние сепаратизма на развитие как политического процесса, так и международной обстановки. На основе исторических явлений сепаратизма с помощью метода моделирования были сформулированы его потенциальные последствия в условиях этнополитического конфликта.

Ключевые слова: этнополитический конфликт; сепаратизм; сепаратизм; национализм; этнические меньшинства.

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The term separatism refers to the theory, policy, or practice of separating a part of a state's territory to create a new independent state or obtain the status of broad
autonomy. This fact indicates a violation of "the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the state, the principle of inviolability of borders and, as experience shows, can be a source of acute inter-state and inter-ethnic conflicts" [2]. At its core, political separatism is the most radical form of ethnic nationalism, which is based on the principle of national self-determination for ethnic communities.

Separatism is widely studied in historical science, political science, Ethnology, conflict studies, sociology, and philosophy, since in its manifestation it affects the most important human values and huge masses of people.

Separatism has a global geography of manifestation and a broad historical base. It is associated with the modification or abolition of the state – the most complex form of consolidation and structuring of human society [3, p. 18]. In a dispute between the Central government and the separatists, it is impossible to find a compromise of interests, except in exceptional cases.

The most important problem of separatism is the relationship between the state and an ethnic group claiming political self-determination. There is a conflict when two fundamental norms of international law are combined: the principle of inviolability of borders and territorial integrity of States, on the one hand, and the right of peoples to self – determination, on the other. However, a more precise understanding of the concept of self-determination of a people is needed. In most cases, the ideologists of separatism put in this concept the possibility of each ethnic community to have its own independent state registration with complete rejection of the dominant political regime and cultural cohabitation. This model of self-determination is at odds with legal theory and international legal instruments and is practically impossible to implement in the complex structure and interconnectedness of the modern world. From the point of view of international law, people's self-determination is interpreted as the right of ethnic communities to exercise political governance and participation in accordance with the democratically expressed will and not to the detriment of the rest of the population of the region and the state.

At the same time, it should be noted that the reasons for separatism often lie in gross violations of the rights of people and peoples, national, racial and religious
groups (minorities). Examples include the Kurdish territories of Iraq under Saddam Hussein, and the regions of Sudan – Darfur and South Sudan. Separatism today creates many acute problems for both developed countries (Canada, Spain, etc.) and developing countries (India, Pakistan, Iraq, and many African States). Separatism played a negative role in the collapse of the USSR and continues to affect the political process in the Russian Federation and the former Yugoslavia (for example, clashes between Croats, Serbs and Bosnians).

Separatism cannot be considered in isolation from the sphere of morality. Often separatist movements are justified by the suffering of the ethnic community, the belittled status of the minority, as well as discrimination, colonial oppression, ethnocide, and overexploitation by the Central government. In turn, ethnic communities want to preserve and develop their exceptional culture, which is subject to assimilation. Examples are the USSR and Yugoslavia, where ethnic identity was replaced by an ideological one, which later led to an “explosion of ethnicity”. Thus, in Yugoslavia in 1992 86% of voters voted for ethnic parties, although this issue has not been updated in the recent past [4, p. 258]. In addition, there are cases where the moral arguments in favor of the collapse of States have been compromised by political actors for the national interests of third States. For example, during the Iran-Iraq war, the Iranian government supported Kurdish rebels in Iraq.

The driving forces of separatism can be different groups of society with different reasons.

An important problem in the field of ethno-political conflicts and separatism is the situation in which ethnic minorities constitute the majority in a particular region or region. This gives a reason for this minority, with a sufficient level of self-awareness, to create autonomy.

The problems related to the phenomena of separatism remain relevant for national States and the international community even in the twenty-first century. In the 80s of the XX century, separatism was considered a hopeless form of political process, since a relatively small number of separatist movements led to the creation of independent States. However, subsequent events in the 1990s and 2000s-the collapse
of the USSR and Yugoslavia, the recognition of independence of Kosovo, East Timor, South Sudan, and East Pakistan (Bangladesh) – gave rise to completely opposite trends. The achievement of independence by a number of States caused the so-called second wave of separatism and allowed us to look at political processes of this kind in a different way. It is important to note that there are dozens of countries that have experienced one or more internal armed conflicts of a separatist nature during their historical development [3, p. 13-14].

Separatism as a political conflict can have functional (positive) and dysfunctional (negative) consequences. These include revaluation of values, the need to change the political system and legal framework, consolidation of society, and awareness of the situation. However, in political practice, positive consequences are extremely rare, and dysfunctional consequences prevail. Among them: threats to the integrity of the state and society, armed conflicts, forced deportation and relocation, ethnocide, genocide, economic crisis, material losses and human victims.

Separatism is often accompanied by an ethno-political conflict, since a compact ethnic minority has a greater potential and level of self-awareness for the formation of autonomy and the state than any other consolidated group. An ethnic group that sets itself the goal of partial or complete separation from state education can rely on such phenomena as nationalism, the right of peoples to self-determination, and ethno political mobilization. An important aspect of the emergence of ethno nationalism was the fact that various ethnic groups became the basis for the formation of national States. This fact is a precedent for every compact ethnic group with a sufficient level of self-awareness and self-organization.

It is important to note that ethno political conflicts in the context of separatist movements are particularly difficult to resolve and radical methods of fighting are used. The parties to the conflict strive to act decisively and to the end, as separatism implies a significant redistribution of power and economic resources. If an ethnic group demands autonomy within the state, the intensity of the struggle between the parties to the conflict is significantly less than if there is a full secession. It is worth noting that the ethnic minority will strive for the most comprehensive set of rights and powers.
The territorial issue becomes particularly important in the context of the complete separation of an ethnic group and the formation of its own independent state on the territory of compact residence. Such phenomena are accompanied by consequences that complicate the ethno-political conflict.

1. The separation of an ethnic group from state A and the formation of state B creates a legal precedent for other ethnic groups seeking such phenomena, which, in turn, can destabilize the situation in a number of multi-ethnic States, including the Russian Federation. The Declaration of independence of the Republic of Kosovo triggered a series of demands for the creation of independent States from ethnic minorities from various States. Among these ethnic groups were, for example, Basques and Kurds.

2. The formation of state B raises questions about its future economic viability, and also implies economic losses for state A, on the territory of which secession occurs. This complicates relations between the parties to the conflict. The process of distribution of state property on the territory of the state b is also complex.

3. State A is likely to be concerned about a possible geopolitical threat from state B. the Formation of a hotbed of instability on its territory, the possible friendly relations of state B with countries and organizations hostile to state A, as well as the likely appearance of a channel for transporting prohibited funds to state A and the penetration of undesirable elements will force state A to reconsider the feasibility of creating state B. Moreover, in the context of an ethno-political conflict of an armed nature, state A will worry about the fate of compatriots who find themselves in state B. Guarantees of their safety and the absence of persecution by the ethnic majority, driven by revanchist motives, are reduced to zero.

4. Given that state borders often do not coincide with the borders of ethnic settlement; it is difficult to demarcate borders between States. This will cause a fierce bidding war between the two state entities.

5. The creation of state B can undermine the international authority and global image of state A, as well as form an opinion about the incapacity and illegitimacy of
power in state A. This can cause a crisis of the political and state system in this state, as well as lead to the activation of radical groups both in relation to the ruling political elite of state A and in relation to state B.

6. In the context of instability of political and socio-economic systems of States, issues of legal capacity and legitimacy of state B, as well as its recognition by other countries and international organizations, are of concern.

In the case of the process of autonomy of an ethnic region within the borders of state A, these possible consequences are much less severe, but the probability of the formation and escalation of the conflict remains.

State A and state B are able to overcome or mitigate the consequences of separatist and conflict processes through the use of effective democratic settlement procedures, mediation, and negotiations in order to achieve consensus.

Bibliography